

AGENDA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
August 29, 2007
7:00 p.m.
Town Building

Public Input

Chairman's Comments

Town Administrator's Report

Meeting Minutes

Visitors

- 7:15 p.m. Stow Gobbler road race permit – Alex and Nick Papanastassiou
- 7:25 p.m. Agricultural Preservation Restriction for Tyler farmland – Conserv. and Ag. Comms

Action/Discussion

- One-day liquor license for Stow Conservation Trust
- ZBA re-appointment
- Use of NRSD Chapter 70 aid
- Special Town Meeting date
- Upcoming public forum on Snow priorities

MSBA Update

Superintendent of Schools Michael Wood

Selectmen's Master Planning

Land Use Committee charter and composition – Jason

Liaison Reports, if any

Update on Affordable Housing Partnership and Trust – Kathleen

Adjournment

Posted 8/27/07

Correspondence (available on request)

Town:

CC of Stow Finance Committee letter to NRSD on excess Chapter 70 aid, rec'd 8/7
Resident letter on Montachusett RTA, rec'd 8/13
Resident email on correspondence, rec'd 8/14, 8/20, 8/23
Building permits report for July, rec'd 8/15
Two resident letters on land use policy, rec'd 8/15
CC of Planning Board letter on Tyler/Great Road APR, rec'd 8/15
CC of Planning Board memo on Butternut Farm permit conditions, rec'd 8/16
Resident forwarding Globe articles on MSBA and Milford 40B, rec'd 8/19.
CC of Lancaster Finance Committee letter to NRSD on excess Chapter 70 aid, rec'd 8/20
MA Dept of Public Safety acknowledgement of C. Martin appt, rec'd 8/20
Letter of interest on Rail Trail Committee, rec'd 8/21
Resident letter on excess Chapter 70 aid, rec'd 8/21
Resident letter on Mass health plan, rec'd 8/22
Recreation Comm member letter on Snow property, rec'd 8/23
ZBA decisions on 36 Hastings Street and 61 Hiley Brook Road, rec'd 8/23
Resident letter on Stow's MSBA SOIs, rec'd 8/26

General:

Announcement of 9/14 annual MMPA meeting, rec'd 8/17
Invitation to join Suburban Coalition, rec'd 8/21
Announcement of 9/18 MassDEP Informational Session, rec'd 8/23
Announcement of MMA essay contest, rec'd 8/23
Announcement of MetroFuture plan review, rec'd 8/24

Posted 8/27/07

1st ANNUAL
STOW GOBBLER 5K
Thanksgiving, 22 Nov 2007

Time: 8:00 AM

Place: BOSE Corporation
688 Great Road
Stow, MA 01775



Registration: Go to Stow Recreation website, click on Stow Gobbler 5K link, and download registration form. Mail to: Stow Gobbler 5K
279 Hudson Rd. Stow, Ma 01775
Or day-of race
registration 7:00 AM

Distance: 5K Run/Fun Walk

Entry Fee: 5K Run: \$20
5K Walk: \$20
Children 12 and Under: \$5

Age Group Awards: Top overall male & female finisher
Top 3 male & female finishers age groups: 0-18, 19-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70 plus

Amenities: Post-race awards and refreshments under tent

T-shirts: T-shirts for all who pre-register

Sponsors: ET&L Corp., Embroidery & More, Hudson Road Auto, Radant Corp., Stow Recreation Department, Stow Acres Country Club

Directions: Mapquest 688 Great Road (Rt. 117), Stow, MA
Turn into main BOSE driveway at light. Follow 5K parking signs

Additional Info: Proceeds benefit Habitat For Humanity and Stow Community Chest
USA Track and Field sanctioned.

Susan McLaughlin

From: tlima.stowpd@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2007 7:19 AM
To: selectmen@stow-ma.gov
Subject: Stow Gobbler Road Race

Hi Susan,

I have met with Nick and Alex Papanastassiou regarding their road race on Thanksgiving. The route they have designed will not impact the local traffic flow. The only issue would be crossing Route 117. For that short period of time, we can arrange for a shift cruiser to cover that post until all the runners are across 117. Any questions, please let me know.

Thanks
Tim

--

Sgt. Timothy Lima
Stow Police Dept
305 Great Rd
Stow, MA 01775
978-897-4545

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8/8/2007

Susan McLaughlin

for 8/28 or 9/11

From: Susan McLaughlin [selectmen@stow-ma.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2007 3:03 PM
To: Steve Dungan
Cc: Bill Wrigley
Subject: FW: Al Tyler Agriculture Preservation Restriction

Hi,
For 8/28 or 9/11 selectmen's agenda.

-----Original Message-----

From: Pat Perry [mailto:Conservation@Stow-MA.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2007 2:44 PM
To: Bill Wrigley (E-mail); Susan McLaughlin (E-mail); Karen Kelleher (E-mail); Dwight Sipler (E-mail); Robert Wilber (E-mail)
Subject: Al Tyler Agriculture Preservation Restriction

Hi Folks,

As part of Mr. Tyler's application to the Dept. of Agriculture, the Conservation Commission is required to fill out Enclosure "E" of the application and submit to the Dept. by September 17th. The Dept. is requesting letters of support for Mr. Tyler's application and I would like to attach letters from your boards and/or commissions. I am sure you are all aware of the application but if you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you, Pat

Patricia R. Perry
Stow Conservation Commission
380 Great Road
Stow, Massachusetts 01775
978-897-8615
978-897-4534 fax
conservation@stow-ma.gov
www.stow-ma.gov



RECEIVED

AUG 16 2007

Town of Stow
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Town of Stow
PLANNING BOARD

380 Great Road
Stow, Massachusetts 01775
(978) 897-5098
FAX (978) 897-4534

August 15, 2007

Christine Chisholm
Department of Food & Agriculture
142 Old Common Road
Lancaster, MA 01523

Dear Ms. Chisholm:

We are writing in support of the Agricultural Preservation Restriction application, submitted by Mr. Tyler for his land in Stow.

This land has been historically used for agriculture. The Tyler land is currently farmed by Applefield Farm, who also farms the abutting Moseley APR land, land owned by Steve and Kirsten Mong and the nearby 11 acres of prime farmland owned by the Town. Applefield Farm has also farmed the abutting Snow property, which is currently being considered by the Town for acquisition. The Stow Agricultural Commission has expressed an interest in protecting the Snow property, as well as the Tyler property, to provide a block of contiguous agricultural land to help keep agriculture viable in Stow.

Agricultural preservation is at the heart of Stow's planning efforts. Stow is proud that our farms have withstood the threat of development. The Planning Board has consistently worked to protect our working farms by pushing for development designs and implementation sensitive to the needs of farmers in our town. Furthermore, passage of the Community Preservation Act and the Town's long history of land protection for open space and agriculture speak to the Town's commitment to the preservation of our agricultural legacy.

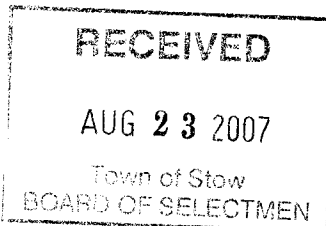
The Planning Board very much appreciates Mr. Tyler's commitment to farming in perpetuity on his property. Applefield Farm has done a wonderful job providing us with homegrown produce. We treasure the fact that residents of Stow can still purchase produce grown within our own town and urge the Department to fund the preservation of the Tyler property to the highest extent possible.

Sincerely,

Ernest E. Dodd KK
Ernest E. Dodd
Chairman

Cc: Conservation Commission
Board of Selectmen
Mr. Tyler
Applefield Farm

TOWN OF STOW
STOW, MASSACHUSETTS 01775



APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE

Date: 8/23/07

Name of Applicant(s)

Jean Lynch

Home Address & Telephone

74 West Acton Rd

Stow, MA 01775

Name of Organization

Stow Conservation Trust

Address

P.O. Box 397, Stow

Date(s) for which license is requested: September 29, 2007

Hours of sales: 7:30 - 12:00 pm

Type of beverage(s) to be sold: beer, wine, liquor

Event for which license is requested: Annual Harvest Ball

Profit or non-profit? non-profit

Location of event: 137 Barton Rd, Stow (Collings Foundation)

The undersigned will be responsible for the license, if granted.

Signature(s):

Jean A Lynch



Town of Stow

Finance Committee

380 Great Road
Stow, Massachusetts 01775

August 7, 2007

Nashoba Regional School District School Committee
Cathy Giunta, Chair
50 Mechanic St.
Bolton, MA 01740

Dear NRSD School Committee:

The Stow Finance Committee has been advised that under the House and Senate Final budget the total Chapter 70 aid to the Nashoba Regional School District for FY'08 will be greater than the Governor's projected budget. The Stow Finance Committee feels strongly that any additional state aid received above the previously budgeted values should be returned to the member towns of the District in the form of lowered FY'08 assessments. We believe that the member Towns should be entitled to use any supplementary State aid to reduce the growing property tax burdens that our residents face.

We are available to discuss this matter with you, and trust that you give our request active consideration once the state aid figures are finalized.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Kern
Chair, Stow Finance Committee

Gary Bernklow, Henry Hagopian, James Salvie, David Walrath, Members
Joseph Hogan, Parrinello Anthony, Associate Members

Cc: Stow Selectmen, Stow Town Administrator, Bolton Selectmen, Lancaster Selectmen, Bolton Advisory Committee, Lancaster Finance Committee



RECEIVED

AUG 7 2007

Town of Stow
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Town of Stow
Finance Committee

380 Great Road
Stow, Massachusetts 01775

August 7, 2007

Stow Board of Selectmen
380 Great Road
Stow, MA 01775

Dear Mr. Dungan:

The Stow Finance Committee has written a letter to the Nashoba Regional School District School Committee concerning excess Chapter 70 aid. I have enclosed a copy of the letter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Kern
Chair, Stow Finance Committee

Gary Bernklow, Henry Hagopian, James Salvie, David Walrath, Members
Joseph Hogan, Parrinello Anthony, Associate Members



TOWN OF LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

RECEIVED

AUG 20 2007

Town of Stow
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

John Wojciak, Chair.
James Piermarini, Vice Chair.
Janet Baylis
James Riley
Walter Sendrowski

August 16, 2007

Ms. Cathy Giunta, Chair
NRSD School Committee
50 Mechanic Street
Bolton, MA 01740

Dear Ms. Giuanta and NRSD Committee Members:

Lancaster is pleased that the total Chapter 70 aid to NRSD for FY'08 will significantly exceed the Governor's original projection. We understand there are several options available to your Committee for the excess funds. We would like to express our support for returning the additional state aid to the member towns of the District by lowering FY'08 assessments.

Lancaster taxpayers have consistently provided regional school funding through several difficult budgets. We would hope the supplementary State aid can now be directed back to the community for some modest relief.

Sincerely,

John Wojciak
Chair, Lancaster Finance Committee

c/ Cheryl Gariepy, Finance Director
Stow Board of Selectman – Town Administrator – Stow Finance Committee
Bolton Board of Selectman – Town Administrator – Bolton Finance Committee

Susan McLaughlin

From: Eleanore Recko [eleanore_recko@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2007 10:48 AM
To: Steve Dungan; Ellen Sturgis; Board of Selecment; Jason Robart
Cc: Pina Rocca; Greta Morgan; Lisa DAlessio; Claudia Dragun; Kristen Donovan; 'Georgia Jones'; Charlie Kern; Beth Tobey
Subject: Capital campaign for the school project

Dear Steve, Ellen, Jason, Kathy, and Tom,
 The Stow Finance Committee recently wrote a letter to the NRSD School Committee regarding excess chapter 70 aid. The Finance Committee advocated that these funds be returned to the town to reduce the tax burden. (The Finance Committee letter was an item of correspondence from Charlie Kern at the August 14th Board of Selectmen meeting).

I advocate that these funds should be used instead as seed money for a capital campaign for the school building project.

MSBA rewards communities that raise money from outside sources toward school building projects. In Chapter 70B, Section 10, the MSBA regulations detail the formula for calculating the percentage the commonwealth will pay toward an approved project. The formula is as follows:

Base Percentage + Community Income Factor + Community Property Wealth Factor + Community Poverty Factor + **Incentive Percentage**

For non-state fundraising, MSBA will give *.5 Incentive Percentage points for every 1% of project cost raised.*

A capital campaign is a great way to:

1. Lessen the tax burden on town residents
2. Reinforce to the MSBA that Stow is serious in its commitment to the school building project
3. Earn "Incentive Percentage Points" that are factored into the overall grant percentage.

As you have no doubt read in the Globe and other papers, communities are lining up with their wish-lists for MSBA funding. Starting a capital campaign now is one thing Stow can do to reiterate our commitment to solving our elementary school building problems. And there's no better way to initiate a capital campaign than with a sizeable amount of seed money. Please consider using the excess Chapter 70 aid money as the start of a successful capital campaign for Stow's elementary school building project.

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance. My phone number is 978- 760-1356.

Thanks so much,
 Eleanore Recko
 Chair, Support Stow Schools
 PO Box 273
 Stow, MA 01775

8/21/2007

Susan McLaughlin

From: Stephen Dungan [s.dungan@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2007 9:23 AM
To: Tom Ruggiero; Susan McLaughlin (bos); Jason Robart; Bill Wrigley; Ellen Sturgis BOS; Kathy Farrell
Subject: Fw: Snow Property

FYI.
Steve

----- Original Message -----

From: irishpilotjim@aol.com
To: s.dungan@comcast.net
Cc: mike.busch@amd.com
Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2007 8:37 AM
Subject: Snow Property

Steve,

I hope your summer is going well.

I just want to inquire about what the decision making process will be now on the municipal use of the Snow property going forward toward a special town meeting. I realize that both agriculture and affordable housing have expressed an interest in this land as well.

The town of Stow has a wonderful character about it and I believe strongly in both agriculture and affordable housing in Stow to maintain that character, however, I do believe that this may be the time to look toward addressing the needs of recreation.

Agriculture has received both the Poultey property and the Mosely property over the last few years while nothing has been done for recreation. The Gale report suggested that Stow's active recreation needs could be met by 13 - 14 acres of land. However, that is before any fields are lost at Center School. The loss of two baseball fields, more soccer fields and the tennis courts will increase the amount of land required. Having been a part of the team looking for land, I can tell you that it is extremely difficult to find land with those characteristics in Stow.

Affordable housing may actually be a better fit for the Snow property if the land is divided up for municipal use because I believe that much could be done with three acres of land on the front of the property. However, I see two concerns. First, I strongly believe that Stow can find land that can be used for affordable housing that doesn't cost \$100,000/acre. Because recreation land needs to be flat, dry and with good access, the Town of Stow will pay a premium for that type of land. Why pay that premium unnecessarily for affordable housing land if we don't have to? Secondly, if a portion of this land is carved out for affordable housing, we will still need to go through this whole process of looking for more flat, dry land for fields just a few years down the road when more funds can be raised to build the remainder of fields needed.

I strongly encourage you to consider these points when discussing the municipal use of the Snow property. Thank you for all the straight-forwardness and respect you have shown us throughout this entire process. You have done an admirable job of opening this to all interested parties.

8/23/2007

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Best regards,
Jim Henry

AOL now offers free email to everyone. Find out more about what's free from AOL at **AOL.com**.

8/23/2007

Susan McLaughlin

From: dtryan1@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, August 26, 2007 10:43 PM
To: selectmen@stow-ma.gov
Cc: TownAdministrator@stow-ma.gov; s.dungan@comcast.net; e.sturgis@comcast.net; kkkfarrell@comcast.net; jason.robart@mercer.com; ruggierot@comcast.net
Subject: Stow Elementary Building Project; MSBA SOI Submissions

August 26, 2007

Stow Board of Selectmen
 380 Great Road
 Stow, MA 01775

Subject: Stow Elementary Building Project; MSBA SOI Submissions

Dear Selectmen,

It has recently come to my attention that the MSBA (Mass School Building Authority) had requested that all of the Towns submitting more than one SOI (Statement of Interest) to the MSBA would need to choose a single SOI for consideration.

As you are aware the SBTF (School Building Task Force) of which I was a member, prepared (2) SOIs, one for Center School and a second for Pompositticut. These SOIs were by MSBA definition to be statements of deficiencies in the existing buildings as well as how these deficiencies fit the statutory criteria established by MGL c. 70B. The SOI submission is the critical "first step" in the competitive application process for school construction and renovation grants. At this juncture in the MSBA process there is no presumption of solution to any of the problems put forward.

My understanding is that a decision was made to submit the Pompositticut SOI as the more "needy" of the projects. I am extremely concerned that the decision to prioritize the Pompositticut SOI may have the unintended effect of delaying any school building project in Stow. I believe that submitting the Center School SOI would improve our chances of getting some MSBA funding in a shorter period of time. My reasoning is as follows:

*Center School over 50 years old, currently crowded, expecting more in the near future.

*The MSBA has currently rated the condition of Center a (3 out of 4 - 4 being worst) - "The building is in **generally moderate condition** and some building systems may need attention" - The MSBA facilities report listed (12) items they believed needed attention.

*The condition and age of the building, crowded conditions and expected and substantiated enrolment increases offer a reasonably compelling argument.

*Pompositticut School is only 36 years old, enrolment decreased and modular classrooms have eased crowding.

*The MSBA has currently rated the condition of Pompo a (2 out of 4 - 4 being worst) - "The building is in **generally good condition** however a few building systems may need attention" - The MSBA facilities report listed (3) items they believed needed attention.

*We are accepting School Choice students for Pompo - how can we be overcrowded or severely overcrowded?

If our most compelling need is Pompo because we do not like modular classrooms or the "Open Concept" layout in a 36 year old building that may need a few systems updated I believe our need is not that compelling compared to other projects we will be competing against. The SOI for Center offers a more compelling argument for securing funding a Stow school building project, and should Center be approved by the MSBA we would stand a better chance of "tacking on a Pompo solution" to the Center project (as we have proposed) as a "future cost savings" to both the State and Town.

I have also attached a copy of the MSBA Spring 2007 newsletter that has a good "plain English" description of the MSBA application process. A more detailed description is available on the MSBA website.

Thank you for your consideration,

8/27/2007

Tom Ryan,
453 Great Rd.

Email and AIM finally together. You've gotta check out free [AOL Mail!](#)

8/27/2007

2006 School Building Design Awards Contest Winners

The MSBA held its first School Building Design Awards Contest in an effort to recognize the successes of the recent past and to identify model elements of existing buildings to help inform the MSBA's new school building regulations. The goal of the contest was to celebrate the best practices in Massachusetts' school design in the last ten years. The MSBA received 57 submissions from architects across the Commonwealth. A big thanks to everyone who participated.

Contest Winners

Margo Jones Architects, Inc.

Crocker Farm Elementary School, Amherst
Williamstown Elementary School, Williamstown
New Hingham Elementary School, Chesterfield-Goshen Regional School District

Design Partnership of Cambridge

Lincoln Elementary School, Melrose

DiNisco Design Partnership

Holten-Richmond Middle School, Danvers

Cole & Goyette

Point Webster Middle School, Quincy

HMFH Architects, Inc.

Central Tree Middle School, Wachusett Regional School District
Boston Latin High School, Boston
Brooks, Columbus & Roberts Elementary Schools, Medford
Michael E. Caprono Early Childhood Center, Somerville

Flansburgh Associates

Fairhaven High School, Fairhaven

Mount Vernon Group

Roosevelt Middle School, New Bedford
Ashland High School, Ashland

Architecture Involution, Inc.

Whitman-Hanson High School, Whitman-Hanson Regional School District

Lamoureux Pagano Associates

Worcester Technical High School, Worcester

Dore & Whitier Architects

Linlton High School, Linlton



Treasurer Tim Cahill addressing the contest winners at a State House ceremony



MSBA Executive Director Katherine Craven and Treasurer Tim Cahill



Design Awards Contest Ceremony

MSBA NEWS

2nd Annual "My Ideal School" Contest

Treasurer Tim Cahill and MSBA Executive Director Katherine Craven recently joined together with more than 100 students, parents and school administrators to honor the 13 winners of the MSBA's 2nd Annual "My Ideal School" Contest. The contest was created to facilitate classroom discussion as to how design and construction of schools supports student learning. First grade students who participated in the contest were asked to draw and describe their "ideal school" building. Over 3,500 entries were received and 13 winners were chosen. Each of the winners received a \$100 savings bond from Sovereign Bank. One lucky grand prize winner, Charles Wang from the Linscott School in Woburn, received a \$200 savings bond and will have his drawing featured on the cover of the MSBA's 2006 Annual Report. A list of all contest winners can be found on the MSBA website:

www.massschoolbuildings.org



School Contest Winner Charles Wang, MSBA Executive Director Katherine Craven

Volume 1, Issue 2

MSBA Achievements to date:

- Accelerated payments of \$3.4 billion for 350 school construction projects which otherwise would have waited up to a decade for a first partial payment from the state
- 389 Audited Projects: MSBA has saved communities more than \$1.8 billion in avoided local interest costs
- Distributed \$1 billion for 728 schools built between 1985-2003

Inside this Issue:

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\$1.5 Billion Bond Deal	3
Design Awards Contest	4

Facilities and Maintenance Assessment & Statements of Interest

As many of you know, the new grant program for school building construction and renovation projects will be a competitive grant program. The MSBA will award grants based on the greatest and most urgent need pursuant to 8 statutory criteria set forth in M.G.L. c. 70B. The deadline for submitting a Statement of Interest is July 31, 2007. Districts submitting a Statement of Interest may be visited by a team of design professionals hired by the MSBA who will perform an assessment of building conditions and local school maintenance practices. For the last few months, the MSBA has been working closely with STV, Inc. on designing and developing the Facilities and Maintenance Assessment. The Facilities and Maintenance Assessment will include detailed on-site evaluations of buildings, systems, major building components, and the go to page 3

Application Process

The following is a general description of the new application process for school construction grants. Submission of information and documentation during any phase will be on a timeline determined by the Authority and will be tailored to meet specific needs of a project. The Authority has the discretion, at any point in the process, in any phase, to determine if a project merits consideration, pursuant to priority criteria established in M.G.L. c. 70B. Only after a determination by the Authority that a project merits further consideration, pursuant to the priority criteria established in M.G.L. c. 70B, should an Eligible Applicant move forward to another phase.

Phase I - Identification of the Problem

Statements of Interest are due July 31. During this phase, the Eligible Applicant submits a Statement of Interest stating what they believe are the deficiencies in their school facilities and how those deficiencies fit the statutory priority criteria for funding. After submission of the Statement of Interest, submission of further documentation during this phase will be required, including but not limited to, Initial Compliance Certification, Design and Educational Program and Budget Statement for Educational Objectives.

Phase II - Verification of the Problem

The Authority will do a preliminary review of Statements of Interest based on:

(1) data gathered during the Needs Survey, (2) the Authority's enrollment projection, (3) the Initial Compliance Certification, (4) the district's Educational Facilities Master Plan, Design and Educational Program and Budget Statement for Educational Objectives, and (5) other data and information required by the Authority. If the Authority determines the Statement of Interest merits further consideration to move forward in the application process pursuant to the priority criteria established in M.G.L. c. 70B, a detailed facilities and maintenance assessment may be conducted and a pre-study review meeting may be scheduled.

Phase III - Collaboration on Potential Solutions

During this phase, the Authority may require a Feasibility Study to be performed using personnel procured through the Designer Selection Panel process. The Feasibility Study will be performed pursuant to standard procedures and will explore several potential solutions.

Phase IV - Agree Upon a Solution

If the Authority determines that a problem identified in a Statement of Interest merits further consideration, the Authority and the Eligible Applicant will hold a Project Scope and Budget Conference. At the conclusion of the Project Scope and Budget Conference, the Authority and the Applicant will develop a solution that makes educational and financial sense. After execution of an agreement on the Project Scope and Budget, the Board of Directors of the Authority will vote on approval of the agreed upon project. The Eligible Applicant will then be required, within 120 days, to get local approval for the project and execute a Project Funding Agreement as detailed in the Project Scope and Budget Agreement or the Authority may rescind the offer.

Phase V - Implement Agreed Upon Solution

The remaining phases of an Approved Project will be established in the Project Scope and Budget Agreement. Those timelines will vary depending on the type and complexity of the Approved Project, but will generally call for 3-12 months for design work and 3-5 months for solicitation of bids and award of contract, followed by construction, building commissioning and project close-out.

MSBA \$1.5 Billion Bond Offering

Over the past two years, the MSBA has distributed over \$4.5B in accelerated payments to cities, towns and regional school districts which otherwise would not have received a payment for 10 or more years under the former program. The ability to make these payments well ahead of the original schedule is a product of the MSBA's borrowing program which has had two major issuances in the last two years.

- In July 2005, the MSBA issued \$2.5 billion in dedicated sales tax revenue bonds to pay grants to cities, towns and regional school districts for school construction projects that were maintained on a Waiting List under the former program. This debt offering was the largest ever in the history of the Commonwealth.
- In March 2007, the MSBA went back to Wall Street and issued \$1.5 billion in dedicated sales tax revenue bonds to help finish financing the \$5.5 billion in Waiting List school construction projects. This debt offering was the third largest ever in the Commonwealth.

"By taking advantage of the historically low level of interest rates, the MSBA has been able to beat the estimates on our borrowing costs and pass along the savings to cities, towns and regional school districts," stated MSBA Executive Director Katherine Craven. "The high credit quality and high ratings of the MSBA bonds makes them very attractive to investors and the demand for the bonds continues to be strong."



Facilities and Maintenance Assessment

continued from page 1

maintenance of a building. These evaluations will be performed by qualified and credentialed assessment professionals. The information and data collected during the Facilities and Maintenance Assessment will enable the MSBA to critically and fully assess the deficiencies identified by local districts in their Statements of Interest to determine which facilities have the greatest and most urgent need. In June, we are scheduled to initiate assessments on a pilot group of schools and fully deploy assessment teams shortly thereafter. The MSBA will soon be contacting districts who have submitted a Statement of Interest. There is some information and documentation that we will be requesting communities submit prior to the site visits by the assessment teams in an effort to conduct the assessments as efficiently as possible and to minimize on-site disruption.

Additionally, M.G.L. c. 70B requires the MSBA to create a maintenance assessment program for school buildings that includes a review of all major building components, maintenance records, existing staff and vendor contracts. The MSBA may use such assessment program as part of the evaluation of maintenance practices by local districts for the allocation of incentive percentage points (0-8%) related to maintenance ratings.

Main Goals of the Facilities and Maintenance Assessment are to:

- Evaluate and validate the issues presented in Statements of Interest
- Provide the MSBA with a consistent way of comparing schools so it can prioritize the need based on the 8 statutory criteria
- Verify and update the baseline data in the Needs Survey
- Assess the maintenance practices and conditions for the allocation of incentive reimbursement percentage points